BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORTS

of

Medical Officer of Health

and Public Health Inspector

for

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BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YEAR 1958

Mayor:

Councillor MRS. F. S. PRITCHARD

Chairman of Water and Health Committee:

Councillor A. J. HOWELL

Vice-Chairman of Water and Health Committee:

Councillor R. FELLOWS (Deputy Mayor)

Water and Health Committee:

Alderman P. W. PALMER
Alderman W. E. JAMES
Alderman Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE, C.C.
Councillor B. INCE
Councillor E. J. FINCH
Councillor J. HINTON
Councillor G. H. DALLEY
Councillor J. R. HAMILTON
Councillor L. E. FRANKLIN

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Mr. J. E. SHEEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

WATER AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1958.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

"D" Housing.

"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.

"F" Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	3,681
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1958)	4,950
Population (Census 1951)	4,756
Estimated number of inhabited houses and self-contained flats (end of 1958)	1,675
Rateable Value	£41,700
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£167

Industry within the Borough is on a small scale, the area being mainly residential. The principal source of local employment is a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc., where 75 persons were employed during 1958.

Other sources of employment, besides Agricultural, include a Saw Mill, and, remaining from the traditional Bewdley industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works and Leather Works.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Live Births

	1958			1957		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	64	33	31	86	39	47
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	4	3	1
	64	33	31	90	42	48

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1958, 12.8 (1957, 18.03).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was: 1958, 16.4 (1957, 16.1).

Still Births

	1958			1957		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	1	—	1	2	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	—	1	2	2	—

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1958, 15.38 (1957, 21.72).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was: 1958, 21.6.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was: 1958, 0.20 (1957, 0.40).

Deaths

1958			1957		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
61	29	32	67	36	31

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was: 1958, 12.2 (1957, 13.4).

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1958, 11.7 (1957, 11.5).

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	1958			1957		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1	1	3	3	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	1	3	3	—

These two infants were under 4 weeks old, and the causes of death were: (i) Anencephaly, (ii) Prematurity.

The Infant Mortality rate was: 1958, 31.25 (1957, 33.3).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1958, 22.6 (1957, 23.1).

Causes of Death

Ref. No.		Male	Female
10, 11, 12, 13, 14.	Cancer	6	10
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	3
18, 19, 20.	Heart Disease	8	10
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	—
23.	Pneumonia	—	3
24.	Bronchitis	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	1
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	—	1
34.	All other accidents	—	2
35.	Suicide	2	—
	TOTAL	29	32

There were no deaths during the year from Diphtheria, Measles, or Whooping Cough.

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Hospitals

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board are available:—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Blakebrook Hospital.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority, and is based on Kidderminster.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are carried out.

Tuberculosis.

(1) Treatment — A dispensary is held twice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital, and there are Sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstan's, Malvern.

(2) Prevention and After-Care — Preventive measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in the district in conjunction with other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

Venereal Disease

A treatment centre is operated at the Kidderminster General Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one each for Bewdley and Wribbenhall. There is also one whole-time Health Visitor.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during the year.

Domestic Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority, Home Help Service has been established in the district and is administered locally by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end of the year, 3 full-time, 15 part-time and 6 occasional home helps were employed, and 91 Chronic, 12 General, 9 Maternity and 1 T.B. cases received attention. The majority of Chronic and General cases were old persons, and three are blind persons.

This has proved a most valuable service to the community in cases of need in the various types of domestic emergency.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The water supply is obtained from river-side boreholes in the Blackstone area, the main source being from a 20 in. x 361 ft. electrically-driven pump delivering 60,000 gallons per hour. The water is excellent in quality and there is a constant supply for all purposes. Water samples for bacteriological analysis are taken monthly and for complete chemical analysis twice yearly.

The water is not plumbo-solvent, and no action has been necessary for any form of contamination in mains supply.

The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to the house is 1,605, and the population served is approximately 5,200. 36 houses are supplied from stand pipes and the population served is approximately 94. 9 houses obtain water from private sources and the population served is approximately 30.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No serious nuisance has occurred during the year concerning the drainage system in general.

Two dwellings in Wribbenhall were provided with mains sewerage facilities and thus discontinue the further use of 2 cesspools. 6 houses in Habberley Road were provided with improved soakaways to deal with the effluent from existing septic tanks. It is hoped that eventually it may be possible to drain these dwellings to the main sewer.

Several more properties were provided with improved drainage facilities with the help of Improvement Grants.

SECTION "D"

Housing

New Accommodation

24 old persons' flats and 7 old persons' bungalows were built by the Corporation during the year. The flats were the first of their type to be built within the Borough, and consist of a large room of the bedroom/sitting room type with the usual domestic quarters. 15 dwellings were completed by private enterprise and 3 older type houses were converted into 10 flats with the aid of Conversion Grants.

Slum Clearance

Plans were approved during the year for the erection of a further 57 dwellings on the Springhill Estate, and several of these dwellings will be reserved for use in connection with the resumption of slum clearance within the Borough.

Rent Act, 1957

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year.

The complicated proceedings required to obtain a Certificate of Disrepair still seem to deter many applicants.

Caravan Sites

There are now four sites authorised under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 - 1959. These are at:—

(1) The Brant Farm, Upper Blackstone.
(2) Hursts Meadow, Northwood Lane.
(3) Council Hill Camp, Cleobury Road.
(4) Riverside Caravan Park, Dowles Road.

New permits now allow a combined total of 473 caravans.

Further extensions have been carried out at the Riverside Caravan Park and additional w.c. accommodation is now proposed.

The Wyre Hill Camping Site has been in use for many years and is licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936. Caravans are not permitted and do not use the site.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examinations of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory of the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning or Suspected Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year. (See Public Health Inspector's Report.)

SECTION "F"

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year at either Clinics, Schools or by General Practitioners, was as follows:—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over
Immunisation	49	15	1	—
Reinforcing doses	—	1	22	—

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Smallpox Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated during the year at either Clinics or by General Practitioners was as follows:—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over
Vaccinations	48	4	—	3
Re-vaccinations	7	—	—	—

Poliomyelitis

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

Notifications

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	47	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	4	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
	3		2		Nil		Nil	

A total number of 29 T.B. cases on the Borough Register at December 31st, 1958, were as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
14	13	—	2

CONCLUSION

The Public Health Services provided within the Borough are generally satisfactory.

The building of 31 aged persons' dwellings is a useful contribution towards solution of the housing problem within the Borough. The erection of 24 flats was in the nature of an experiment and to date has proved satisfactory.

It is hoped that the Council will be in a position to proceed with the erection of further dwellings for younger persons during the coming year.

At Easter time, Polio vaccine became available and a full scale campaign was carried out in schools and clinics to immunise all children whose parents gave consent.

I should like to thank the Mayor, Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Year 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

HOUSING

It is pleasing to report that the remaining occupants of the requisitioned Dog Lane site were re-housed during the year, or made private alternative arrangements to quit the site. The camp has been a source of nuisance for some time, as the last families to live there may well be described as "problem families." Repeated efforts to improve existing facilities were of no avail, and conditions progressively deteriorated. As soon as the last family had moved all Corporation owned fittings were removed in order to prevent reoccupation, and it is now hoped that some form of development of the site will be permitted in order to tidy up the area. The site has been derequisitioned and presumably the owner will dispose of it together with the buildings remaining thereon.

Further details of housing inspections are contained in the Summary of Work of the department.

Improvement Grants

Several properties were visited during the year regarding proposed improvement works. This was in response to the Government request that applicants should be advised, wherever possible, if proposed improvement works would be likely to attract a grant towards the cost. In all cases it was pointed out that the final decision to make such a granted rested with the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 79 food shops and other food-preparing premises within the district. Whilst the majority of these premises are retail food shops, the total includes school canteens, hotels, etc., but excludes agricultural properties. The majority of these premises were visited at least once during the year and others more frequently as required.

A minor improvement was carried out during the year at the kitchen of the new Secondary Modern School, Stourport Road. This was necessitated by the fact that the position of the staff toilet did not comply with the Food Hygiene regulations.

Meat Inspection

Eight Slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year. Two included licences to slaughter horses. Three Slaughterhouses were re-licensed in July, though only two remain in regular use.

One butcher's shop changed ownership during the year.

A total number of 261 visits made to food premises during the year included 152 visits made to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon as practicable afterwards. A detailed register is kept of all animals slaughtered and inspected within the Borough, together with details of meat condemned and the reasons therefor.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcasses inspected as against the number slaughtered.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	102	Nil	29	1,470	391
Number inspected	92	Nil	26	1,168	303
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	—	1	Nil	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	—	Nil	14	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.2	—	4.2	1.4	3.8
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	Nil	Nil	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.2	—	Nil	Nil	3.2

Condemned Food

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 4cwts. 3qtrs. 25lbs. Other miscellaneous foods (mainly canned goods) condemned and surrendered as unfit for food amounted to 29lbs.

Method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the case of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

Milk Distribution

Dealers (principal) licences, in connection with the distribution of milk, were issued as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)	1
Sterilised Milk	2
Pasteurised Milk	1

Dealers (supplementary) licences issued were:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)	2
Pasteurised Milk	2
Sterilised Milk	2

Milk (Special Designation (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-1953

32 samples of milk, heat treated within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were as follows:—

Phosphatase Test			Methylene Blue Test		
Pass	Fail	Void	Pass	Fail	Void
32	—	—	32	—	—

Ice-Cream

Three new applications were received during the year for registration of premises for the storage and sale of Ice-cream, and one notification regarding change of ownership of registered premises. Twenty-six retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Corporation Property (excluding dwelling houses)	6
Private dwellings	70
Business premises	24
Agricultural, etc.	3
Total	103

These figures are taken from the annual return as required by the Ministry and do not indicate the actual number of treatments carried out. The Corporation tip, for example, requires fortnightly attention at least, but is shown only once in this return.

Sewers

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year in compliance with Ministry requirements and this enabled the local authority to qualify for financial assistance with this service.

16 manholes were prebaited in the Bewdley area and 22 in Wribbenhall. All points were twice revisited, but "no takes" were recorded.

The Corporation Rodent Operator, Mr. H. Averill, retired in June 1958, and Mr. W. Hadland commenced duty in October.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

The service continues to improve with the increased distribution of Corporation owned refuse bins. The use of anything but approved type containers has now almost ceased.

Some complaints have been received regarding the use of skeps (baths) in the collection of refuse; it is regretted that their continued use is unavoidable owing to the collection time saved.

In addition to house refuse, trade refuse is collected and disposed of by controlled tipping at a site approximately 1¼ miles from the town centre. The original lease of this site will expire during the coming year, when it is anticipated that some 3,000 square yards of reclaimed land will be finally resurfaced and handed back to the owner.

A limited amount of trade refuse is retained for salvage (cartons, containers, etc.) and a total quantity of 15 tons 19 cwts. was collected and sold during the year.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,082 visits were distributed as follows:—

Housing defects, overcrowding, etc.	257
Houses let-in-lodgings	17
Verminous premises	4
Infectious disease	12
Factories (Part I only)	28
Food premises (including licensed premises)	109
Meat inspections	152
Water supply	11
Rodent and other Pest Control (excluding operator's visits)	27
Caravan sites	42
Drainage works	215
Refuse complaints, Corporation Tip, etc.	26
Miscellaneous	79
	979
Rodent treatments	103
Total	1082

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES E. SHEEN,

Public Health Inspector